

### CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A method of making an elevator belt assembly having a plurality of cords within a jacket, comprising the steps of:
  - 5 (a) aligning the plurality of cords in a selected arrangement;
  - (b) tensioning the cords a selected amount to stretch the cords; and
  - (c) applying a selected jacket material to the cords to encase the cords in the jacket so that the cords remain stretched within the jacket.
- 10 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the cords are tensioned using a load that exceeds an anticipated greatest load that the belt assembly will experience once installed in an elevator system.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the cords are tensioned using a load  
15 corresponding to a desired percentage of a breaking strength of the cords.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein the load corresponds to at least approximately 10% of the cord breaking strength.
- 20 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the jacket material comprises a substantially noncompressible urethane.
6. The method of claim 1, including making the cords using a synthetic material.

7. An elevator belt assembly, comprising:  
a plurality of cords that are stretched; and  
a jacket over the stretched cords that keeps the cords stretched the desired amount without any external load applied to the belt assembly.

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8. The assembly of claim 7, wherein the belt assembly has limited elastic stretch.

9. The assembly of claim 7, wherein the cords comprise a synthetic material.

- 10 10. The assembly of claim 7, wherein the jacket comprises an ether based polyurethane.

11. The assembly of claim 7, wherein the cords are stretched an amount corresponding to a load that exceeds an anticipated greatest load that the assembly  
15 will experience once installed in an elevator system.

12. The assembly of claim 7, wherein the cords are stretched an amount corresponding to a load that is at least approximately 10% of the cord breaking strength.

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13. An elevator belt assembly made by the process, comprising the steps of:
- (a) aligning a plurality of cords in a selected arrangement;
  - (b) stretching the cords by applying a selected amount of tension; and
  - (c) applying a selected jacket material to the stretched cords to encase the
- 5 cords in the jacket so that the cords remain stretched within the jacket.

14. The assembly of claim 13, wherein the cords comprise a synthetic material and the jacket comprises a substantially noncompressible urethane material.